

**DOWNEAST DISTRICT:**

**Environmental Health**

**Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Systems**  
(Septic Systems)

Proper handling and disposal of domestic sanitary wastewater is critical to prevent the spread of bacterial and viral diseases to individuals and entire communities.

Septic systems must be installed correctly and work properly over time. But maintenance is costly, and system repair or replacement may be postponed for too long. All Maine municipalities are required by statute to have a local plumbing inspector and code enforcement officer. Not all towns have full time code enforcement officers; and code enforcement may vary from town to town.

Persons or organizations who need to install a new (or replace an existing) subsurface wastewater disposal system must hire a licensed site evaluator and get a permit from the municipal local plumbing inspector who will perform construction inspections.

Maine CDC’s Subsurface Wastewater Program assists communities with technical and administrative assistance. It licenses people who design subsurface wastewater disposal systems. It conducts a voluntary certification program for system installers and people who conduct real estate transfer inspections. FMI contact: [www.mainepublichealth.gov](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov).

Total Number of Subsurface Wastewater System Permits issued per year	Total Number of Internal Plumbing Permits Issued per Year	Total Number of Licensed Site Evaluators Currently Residing in District	Total Number of Real Estate Transfer System Inspections Performed per Year	Total Number of Voluntarily Certified Inspectors Working in District
1170	1280	17	90	15